

they recognized in this study, they could save their subscribers \$30 million a year. Now, they are already negotiating better deals with their drugs than the average consumer, certainly the average senior citizen can. So what we are talking about is opening up markets.

We want to work with the FDA, but for 2 years the FDA has basically refused to return our phone calls. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis out there; but the crisis is price. I am not here tonight to beat up on the pharmaceutical companies. The truth of the matter is they are going to charge as much as they can. I mean, shame on the pharmaceutical companies, yes, for what they are charging; but shame on the FDA for letting them get away with it, and shame on us for not doing something about it.

Now, this bill is not perfect, and I understand that we should be going further; but I think that is as far as we can get this year, or at least in the next several weeks. As we go forward, perhaps in the Senate, perhaps in conference committee, sometime perhaps before we get it to the President's desk, maybe we can strengthen it this year. And if the FDA does not respond appropriately, I guarantee I will be back next year and we will be fighting for even stronger legislation. Because this idea that American consumers should pay \$30.25 for Coumadin when consumers in Switzerland pay \$2.85 for the same drug, that is simply wrong. And shame on us if we let that continue.

The time has come to send a very clear message to our own FDA that we are not going to allow them to stand between American consumers in the day and age of NAFTA, in the day and age of the Internet, and in the day and age of the information age. The game is over. We are not going to allow them to stand between American consumers, and particularly American seniors, and lower drug prices. The game is over.

This is the night when we begin the journey to bring lower prices to American consumers. When we allow markets to work, we will see lower prices for American consumers, and especially for American seniors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3240.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Mr. GOSS (during consideration of H.R. 3240), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-707) on the resolution (H. Res. 540) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE DAY DISTRICT WORK PERIOD

Mr. GOSS (during consideration of H.R. 3240), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-708) on the resolution (H. Res. 541) providing for consideration of a concurrent resolution providing for adjournment of the House and Senate for the Independence Day district work period, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1304, QUALITY HEALTH-CARE COALITION ACT OF 2000

Mr. GOSS (during consideration of H.R. 3240), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-709) on the resolution (H. Res. 542) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1304) to ensure and foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making the antitrust laws apply to negotiations between groups of health care professionals and health plans and health insurance issuers in the same manner as such laws apply to collective bargaining by labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MARKEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of family illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Thursday, June 29, 2000, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8403. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Prohexadione Calcium; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300998; FRL-6555-2] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 4, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8404. A letter from the Secretary of the Air Force, transmitting notification that certain major defense acquisition programs have breached the unit cost by more than 15 percent, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2431(b)(3)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8405. A letter from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting notification that a major defense acquisition program thresholds have been exceeded, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2431(b)(3)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8406. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the TRICARE Prime Remote Report to Congress January 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8407. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the report entitled, "Report to the United States Congress Regarding Anthrax Vaccine and Adverse-Event Reporting"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8408. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a report to Congress on the Status of the Oxford House Pilot Project; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8409. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Force Management Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting a plan to issue policy governing the pricing of tobacco products sold in military exchanges and commissary stores as exchange consignment items; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8410. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice that the military treatment facility report for fiscal year 1999 is forth coming; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8411. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice that the Department of the Navy is pursuing a multiyear procurement (MYP) for the fiscal year 2000 through fiscal year 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8412. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting the report entitled, "Multi-Technology Automated Reader Card Demonstration Program: Smart Cards in the Department of the Navy"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8413. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of the determination and a memorandum of justification pursuant to Section 2(b)(6)(B) of the Export-Import